

Preschool Winter
Lesson 4:
Shepherds Come to Visit Jesus

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Recognize that Jesus is so special that shepherds left their sheep to go see Jesus **Luke 2:8-20**
- 2) Do activities to reinforce the idea that Jesus' birth is special and we should all praise God as the shepherds did for Jesus!

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See Lesson 1 for Ideas

Supplies: Check with coordinator to ensure supplies are ready.

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Pens/Pencils
- Bible (please bring your own)
- Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Attendance Charts -from previous class - one per student
- Shepherds Hear About Jesus Play Craft - one sheet per student cut out before class
- Scissors - to cut out Play Craft sheets before class
- Tape - to tape the Paper Craft together as needed
- Shepherd Paper Towel Template - two shepherds per student cut before class - 1 set on a page
- Empty paper towel cardboard rolls - 4-5 inches high approximately - 2 per student
- Tape to share
- Scissors - to cut out figures before class for those too young to cut and scissors to share
- Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus and Sheep Paper Towel People - made from previous class

Depending on time choose some optional activities to do and gather supplies

- Tactile Sheep Craft or Visual Aid - 1 sheep per student, 2 sheep on a page - page cut in half before class or if using as visuals - cut the sheep out completely one for each student.
- Small piece of terry cloth - one piece per student to glue onto sheep
- Cotton Balls - 1-2 per student to glue onto sheep tail
- Popsicle Sticks - one per student if using tactile sheep as visual aids
- Tape and Glue Sticks to share
- Shepherd Maze - one per student
- Shepherds Hear Color Page - one per student
- Dolls - one of each family member to show students during song - ex: dad, mom, baby....
- Bibles - one per child
- Snack -Marshmallows - enough so each child gets some along with a napkin and a glass of water

1) Introduction to lesson:

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance charts from previous class). Let each child color a star in their attendance chart for this week, if a new child arrives put their name on a chart for them and let them color in a star.

Tell them, **"Today we are going to continue to talk about the greatest gift ever given - the birth of Jesus. His birth was so important that an angel came to tell shepherds in the field near where Jesus was born! After the angel came, they realized they had something more important to do than care for sheep....they needed to see God's Son - Jesus!"**

We should remember that Jesus is the most important priority for us too! We need to make time every day for Jesus. We can do that by praying and reading the Bible and coming to church services on Sunday!

Let's all say: "Thank you God for Jesus Your Son" (Help students repeat)

Let's sing some songs to get us started!

With Jesus in the Family

(Show dolls if available of each family member while singing)

With Daddy in the family, happy, happy home.
Happy, happy home. Happy, happy home.
With Daddy in the family, happy, happy home.
Happy, happy home!

With Mommy in the family, happy, happy home.
Happy, happy home. Happy, happy home.
With Mommy in the family, happy, happy home.
Happy, happy home!

...Continue with replacing Daddy with
Brother, Sister, Baby and then Jesus!

The B-I-B-L-E

The B-I-B-L-E, yes that's the book for me.
I stand alone on the Word of God,
The B-I-B-L-E.

Chorus

Oh the Bible will never fail, never fail, never fail.
The Bible will never fail – no, no, no!

The B-I-B-L-E, yes that's the book for me.
I read and pray, trust and obey,
The B-I-B-L-E.
(Chorus)

Hand out one Bible to each child. Say to students. **Last time we will learned that the Bible is VERY special. Do you know why? Because it is God's! God made the Bible for us and the Bible has all of God's Words in it for us to obey. Isn't that wonderful? God made the Bible for each and every one of us! God loves us very much and wanted each one of us to have a Bible to read, to use and to study His wonderful words. Today we are going to learn from the Bible about shepherds coming to see Baby Jesus!**

Let's all say "Thank you God for Jesus!" Have students say it together. Good job!

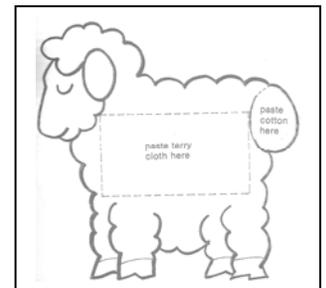
2) Optional: Tactile Sheep Craft or Visual Aid

5-10 minutes

*You can make one sheep in advance for each student if you want to just use as visual aids, or you can have students help you make the craft to prepare for the story of the shepherds finding Jesus.

Hand out one sheep to each child – there are two sheep on a page, cut the page in half if letting them color, or cut the sheep out before class if using as a visual aid while you read the event of the shepherds finding Jesus below.

Hand out one to two cotton balls per student and help them glue them onto the sheep's tail. Take some small terry cloth and glue one onto each sheep as well where marked on the sheep (or if you don't have cloth, you can use more cotton balls). Once sheep has cloth and cotton balls glued on you can also tape a craft stick onto the back of the sheep so the students can hold onto the stick and wave their sheep around while you tell the story below. Have students help you clean up before moving on.



3) The Shepherds Find Jesus

10-15 minutes

Remember last week we talked about Mary and Joseph who had to stay in a stable when baby Jesus was born and his bed was a manger? This week we will continue the story and learn of the shepherds who came and saw Jesus and shared the good news with others. Let's all listen as we read from the Bible.

*If using "Tactile Sheep" as visual aids – prepare one for each student, or at least one for yourself to show students every time the word "sheep" is used. (You can add the terry cloth and cotton balls before or after as a class, but show the sheep to help keep students engaged if helpful.)

Say to students: **every time you hear the word sheep I want you to hold up your sheep (if doing) and say "Baa!" Let's all try together. I will say "sheep" what do you do? Hold up sheep and say "Baa!"**

Taken from **Luke 2:8-20**

The Bible says on the night Jesus was born, there were shepherds caring for their sheep (Baa!) on a hill outside of Bethlehem. It was very dark. And in the field was just the shepherds and their sheep (Baa!)

Shepherds had a very important job. They were trusted to care for many sheep (Baa!) Sheep (Baa!) were very valuable to their owners.

But suddenly, it wasn't dark any longer! An angel appeared in front of the shepherds. The angel told them good news! God's Son had been born! God's Son had been born close by in Bethlehem! Then more angels came to praise God.

As soon as the angels left, the shepherds decided what to do. They left their sheep (Baa!) and they hurried to Bethlehem. There they found baby Jesus. They saw God's Son!

When they had seen baby Jesus, they went back to their sheep (Baa!) They were so happy they praised God and told others about what amazing things they had seen.

Good job everyone, let's all put our sheep away and get ready for our next activity.

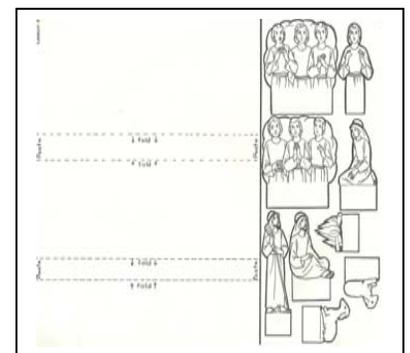
4) Shepherds Hear About Jesus Play Craft and Story

15-20 minutes

Before class: Cut out the angels and shepherds on the right side of the page – one set per student. On the left side of the page, there is the paper to fold. Fold the lines so that you end up with two slots. One slot at the top for the angels to slide around in and one slot at middle for the shepherds to slide around in. Tape the edges closed so that when the angels and shepherds are inserted, they don't fall out.

During class: Have the teacher assistant hand out angles to each child. Have students scribble color the angels. Next hand out the shepherds and have them scribble color them.

Hand out one sheet to each child with the two folded slots already completed and the edges taped. OR if you want students to see what you are doing, go around the class and fold the sheets and tape them while students color the angels and shepherds.



While they color talk about the story of the shepherds and the angels who shared the good news of Jesus birth:

Remember today that we learned that angels came to some shepherds in the fields and told them the good news that Jesus had been born. When the shepherds heard the good news, they went and found baby Jesus and saw Him. They then went and told others about Jesus and praised God. The shepherds were happy that they had seen such a wonderful sight – baby Jesus!

Explain to the children: **Now that we are done coloring our shepherds and angels, we will slide the angels into the top slot so they can move back and forth.** (Show them an example) **Next we will slide in the shepherds at the bottom and move them back and forth. This shows us that the angels came to the shepherds and after the angels left (remove) angels, the shepherds went and found baby Jesus.** (Show shepherds moving to the side of the page as if going somewhere.)

Let students play with their craft for a few minutes and ask them questions as they play. (For questions you can use the questions in the optional Shepherd Color Page section below)

When finished ask the students to help clean up before moving on to the next activity.

Thank those students who choose to help and praise them for helping to encourage other students to want to help as well. Sing the following while you clean up.

Clean Up Song

Clean up, clean up
Everybody everywhere!
Clean up, clean up
Everybody do your share!
Repeat

Story of Jesus Birth Song

Tune: London Bridge

Jesus is the Son of God, Son of God, Son of God.
Jesus is the Son of God. Thank you God for Jesus!

An angel brought Mary happy news,
Happy news, happy news.
An angel brought Mary happy news,
The Bible tells me so.

Shepherds left their flocks of sheep.
Flocks of sheep, flocks of sheep.
Shepherds left their flocks of sheep
To find the baby Jesus

5) Optional Activity: Finding Jesus Action Game

10 minutes

*Make sure you have a Bible somewhere in the room sitting somewhere visible or use a picture of baby Jesus.

Have students line up in a row and tell them that you are going to play a finding Jesus game. Whatever you do, they need to follow you and do while you all go and look for baby Jesus. Just like we need to remember to follow God, the students should follow you!

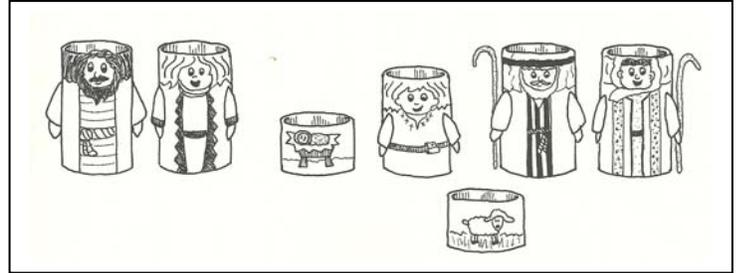
Ideas: As you walk around the room looking for baby Jesus (or you can take them on a special walk if you have enough help to go outside or in the hall) hop on one foot, stomp your feet, march in place, flap your arms, touch your head, rub your stomach, shake your leg, shake your other leg, do jumping jacks, say a prayer, etc., as you search for baby Jesus. Walk them back to the place where the Bible or baby Jesus is located and say:

There we found baby Jesus – His life is told in the Bible! We can learn about Jesus in God’s Word the Bible! Just like the shepherds that searched for Him – we searched for Him too! Good job everyone. Finding Jesus is important – we won’t find baby Jesus anymore, because He grew up, but we can still find Jesus in the Bible and read about Him there and do what He says! Have students sit back down for the next activity.

6) Shepherds Paper Towel People Craft

10-15 minutes

Before Class: Ensure you have paper towel rolls cut to the same height as your templates – approximately 4-5 inches high. Each student needs one roll for each shepherd. Print and cut out one set of shepherds per student. Gather remaining supplies needed along with paper towel people that you already made.



During Class: Hand out one shepherd paper towel template to each student and let them scribble color it, then hand out the other shepherd. As they color talk about the fact that **last time we made Mary and Joseph people and we talked about how Mary and Joseph obeyed God and listened to Him when they found out they were going to be the earthly parents of Jesus – God’s Son! We also talked last week about the birth of Jesus and how special His birth is and what a great gift God gave us when God sent His Son Jesus! This week we will make the shepherds that came and saw baby Jesus.** Write the student’s name somewhere on the shepherd’s backs where you can see it as you will keep these for play time each week.

After they color the sheets show the students how to wrap the templates around a paper towel roll that is cut to the same height as the templates. Wrap each template around a roll and tape the paper together at the back (see picture above). Color and tape their arms to the side as well (see picture above).

Let the students play with Mary and Joseph, Baby Jesus, the shepherds and the sheep. Ask them to tell you what they remember about the story of Jesus birth that they have learned so far and help them fill in any blanks they have about Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus and the shepherds.

Before cleaning up and putting things away remind students that: **“The Bible says that Jesus is God’s Son. Mary and Joseph obeyed God by having Jesus and raising him according to God’s will. The shepherds obeyed God by finding Jesus, telling other’s about Him and praising and thanking God for Jesus. We need to obey God too and we know how by following the Bible – God’s Word! God sent His Son Jesus – what a special gift! Thank you God for Jesus!**

Let's do some action rhymes about the Bible!**Baby Jesus Action Rhyme**

A stable, (Make house with hands)

A manger, (Make box with hands)

A baby, (Cradle a "baby")

With animals all around. (Arms stretched out)

The baby is sleeping. (Fold hands against cheek)

Let's tiptoe, (walk or use fingers to tip toe)

And not make even a sound. (Sh-h-h!)

Shepherds on a Quiet Hill Action Rhyme

Shepherds on a quiet hillside

Watched their wooly sheep one night.

(Put hand over eyes like you are looking around)

Suddenly, a light shone round them;

Near them stood an angel bright.

(Hold hands over eyes like something is too bright)

Do not be afraid, he told them.

Glad news to you I bring.

(Put hands around ears – like listening)

Born this day in Bethlehem,

Baby Jesus our Saviour-King!

(Hold arms as if rocking a baby)

Many angels joined in saying, "Peace on earth,
Good will to men."

(cup hand around mouth as if calling out)

Then the angel left the shepherds

and the sky was dark again.

Shepherds hurried to the place.

Found the baby in a manger bed.

(Show fingers walking up your arm)

Lovingly they looked at Jesus.

Surely God loves us, they said.

(Give yourself a hug)

8) Optional: Shepherds Hear Color Page**10 minutes**

Pass around color page and allow students to color. Ask them what they see in the picture.

Ask questions while they color such as:

Who was in the fields with their sheep? Shepherds

Who came to see them? Angel

What did the Angel say? Jesus was born and they should go and see Him

Did the shepherds leave their sheep to go see baby Jesus? Yes

Did they find baby Jesus? Yes

Was it important for shepherds to watch their sheep? Yes

Was it even MORE important for the shepherds to go see Jesus? Yes

Is it important for us to come to church services to learn about baby Jesus? Yes

Do we love Jesus? Yes

Let's all say: "Thank you God for Jesus!" (Have students repeat)



While they color, open your Bible and say: **God sent His Son Jesus! (1 John 4:10)**

9) Optional: Shepherds Maze

5-10 minutes

Hand out one maze to each student. Help them get the shepherd to baby Jesus. Then help them count the sheep and write the number on the bottom of the page with crayons. If time allow them to color the rest of the page.



10) Optional: Snack – Marshmallows

5-10 minutes

Hand out a few marshmallows to each student. Ask them: **What do these marshmallows remind you of that we talked about today?** Sheep! **Yes. The shepherds left their sheep in order to go find baby Jesus. When they finished finding Jesus and telling others about Jesus, they came back to their sheep.**

You've all done a great job this morning learning about the birth of Jesus from the Bible. To help us remember, we are going to have a snack that reminds us of the sheep we talked about today.

Hand out a snack to each child with a glass of water and napkin. Say, **“Let's think about how wonderful baby Jesus is and how special He is that shepherds left their sheep so they could go find the most important person the world has ever known – Jesus! Let's also think about how wonderful God is for sending His Son Jesus to earth.”** Talk about how we obey the Bible – by going to church services on Sunday, listening to our moms and dads, praying, giving, singing, listening, and reading the Bible. Talk about who we learned about today. After snack have kids clean up. Then move on to the remaining activities.

11) Sing

5-10 minutes

Have children sing songs with you, you can sing from the Song Sheet provided.

12) Close in prayer

Tell students that **we are going to pray, to pray we need to put down everything and fold our hands and bow our heads like this** (show students). **This way we can hear and listen to the prayer and when we sit quietly and focus on God – it makes God happy! We learn this in God's Word the Bible and we need to obey God.**

First: Ask if there are prayer requests that kids want to share. Make a list. Then give the list to the assistant or read yourself.

Second: Remind students to fold hands and bow heads then pray: **Thank You God that You created the world and gave us the Bible. Thank you God that we can know what You want us to do by reading Your special Words – the Bible. Help us to remember to make You and Jesus happy by coming to worship Him every Sunday. Thank you God for sending Your Son Jesus. Thank you for the evangelists and teachers that share the good news of Jesus' and his life. Thank God for everyone here today and for those that couldn't be. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!